Wrong Man Is Jailed For 29 Days

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—Nearly three months ago John A. Langston, 42, married and the father of three, left his hometown of Joffre, Pa., because he was unable to find work and came here seeking employment.

Instead of finding a job, he was jailed for 29 days in the Essex County jail—simply because his name was similar to a man wanted for nonsupport and because he had little money.

He was freed last week when the error was uncovered. After the woman charging a John E. Langston with not supporting a child he had fathered failed to appear at three court hearings.

While in jail, he wrote this letter to the Essex County Legal Aid Society:

I'm a prisoner at Essex jail. I don't know when I'm going to have a hearing. I am not and never have been an illegitimate father. I have a wife and three children at home to take care of and I can't do it here."